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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

USSR CELEBRATES AVIATION DAY 1950

A total of 65 newspapers from 15 union republics, and including 21 from Moscow, published 14-17 July, were covered for this report.

The USSR celebrated Aviation Day 1950 with air meets, lectures, model air-plane contests, and other cultural activities on and preceding 16 July in the capitals and other cities of the various union republics. The main festivities, including an air parade, were to have been held at Tushino airport of Moscow, but were canceled because of bad weather.

Information of intelligence value was almost completely lacking in newspaper accounts of the celebrations. Security restrictions seem to have been tightened as compared with preceding years; the May Day 1950 celebrations were covered more thoroughly.

None of the newspapers available in CIA named the commander of the Air Forces. Colonel General of Aviation Zhigarev, previously thought to be the commander, received considerably less publicity than Guards Lieutenant General of Aviation Vasilii I. Stalin, who was identified only as the deputy commander of the Aviation Day celebration. (The name of the commander of the Aviation Day celebration was also not revealed.) Zhigarev, however, was in the presidium during the Moscow celebration in the Palace of the Soviets on 15 July along with such military leaders as Marshals of the Soviet Union Vasilevskiy, Sokolovskiy, and Govorov, Colonel General F. F. Kuznetsov, Guards Lieutenant General of Aviation N. P. Kamanin, Chairman, Central Committee, All-Union DOSAV Council, Admiral Golovko, and M. V. Khrunichev, Minister of the Aviation Industry USSR. Zhigarev and Kuznetsov both delivered addresses. Neither Vasilii Stalin nor his father was in the presidium.

Celebrations in the union-republic capitals and other cities, nearly all of which were held 15 July, all followed much the same pattern. For several days prior to Aviation Day, representatives of DOSAV organizations, Party agitators, and lecturers from republic Societies for the Dissemination of Scientific and Political Knowledge gave lectures and talks on the history of aviation development in the USSR, the role of Lenin and Stalin in the creation of Soviet aviation, Mozhayskiy and the invention of the first airplane, the role of Soviet aviation in the war, etc. The Society also published a number of pamphlets on aviation.

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The USSR's priority in the field of aircraft construction and aeronautics was the major theme of talks, lectures, and newspaper articles. Men prominent in military and civil aviation made reference to the Korean war in their Aviation Day articles, branding the US as an aggressor.

Coincident with the celebrations was the nation-wide release of the new film, Zhukovskiy, dedicated to Nikolay Yegorovich Zhukovskiy (1847 - 1921), Father of Soviet Aviation, expert in aerodynamics, author of 170 works on theoretical and applied mechanics, and founder of the Central Aerohydrodynamics Institute and the Air Force Academy.

Air demonstrations were scheduled in Minsk, Stalingrad, Novosibirsk, etc., while DOSAV air club members in Kiev and Saratov made demonstration flights and parachute jumps. In Tashkent, the best active workers in local DOSAV organizations were given free airplane rides, and in Kishinev planes took paying passengers up for short rides.

Model airplane contests were held in a number of cities under the sponsorship of the local DOSAV. The 13th Azerbaydzhan SSR DOSAV model airplane competition held at Shamkhor brought out 123 different models of planes and gliders. A few days before the holiday, the Second Kirgiz SSR DOSAV model airplane competition was held in Frunze and attracted over 60 models. The Fourth Latvian SSR DOSAV competition was held near Bauska. The Lithuanian DOSAV contest in Vil'nyus attracted 200 youngsters' airplanes, and 100 entered the Georgian DOSAV contest in Rustavi. Other model airplane meets were held in Yerevan, Petrozavodsk, and Stalinabad.

There were also displays of aviation equipment in the parks, museums, officers' clubs, and DOSAV clubs in many cities, as well as artillery salutes and fireworks, photographic displays, sports meets, film festivals, and concerts to celebrate Aviation Day. The celebrations were attended by representatives of local Party, government, trade union, and civic organizations, as well as members of the armed forces, military and civil aviation, and DOSAV.

Lead editorials in all newspapers on 16 July followed much the same pattern: priority of the USSR in the field of aviation and aeronautics; credit to Stalin for the creation and growth of the aviation industry; claims that Soviet planes are the best in the world, its aviators capable of flying further, faster and higher than anyone else in the world; the history of the Soviet air force, with emphasis on the war (here each union republic added names of republic air heroes in the war to the general list); a brief paragraph on civil aviation, the aircraft industry and prominent aircraft designers; Soviet aviation as an agency of peace, while planes of the American imperialists bomb peaceful cities and villages in Korea; the Stockholm peace petition; and the activities of DOSAV.

In addition to lead editorials, all papers carried special articles on the second page by high-ranking figures in military and civil aviation. The main theme here again was the USSR's priority in the field of aircraft construction and aeronautics.

Articles signed by Guards Lieutenant General of Aviation V. I. Stalin appeared in 16 newspapers in 11 of the Soviet republics; they dealt mainly with events scheduled for the air parade at Tushino on 16 July, and stressed Soviet priority in the field of aviation.

Articles signed by Colonel General of Aviation P. Zhigarev appeared in 13 newspapers in 11 republics and dealt with the history of aviation in the USSR.

Guards Lieutenant General of Aviation N. P. Kamanin authored four newspaper articles in Leninskoye Znanyie, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, Moskovskaya Pravda, and Kommunist for 16 July on the history of Soviet aviation and the activities of DOSAV organizations throughout the nation.

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Marshal of Aviation I. F. Zhavoronkov, chief, Main Administration of the Civil Air Fleet, told of the history of Soviet civil aviation in articles printed in Krasnaya Zvezda, 13 July, Leningradskaya Pravda, 15 July, and Kommunist, 16 July.

In the two newspaper articles signed by him (Trud, 13 July, and Izvestiya, 16 July) Major General of Aviation V. Shimko emphasized the priority of Soviet aviation, and told of the history and activities of the military air force.

Major General of Aviation A. Rytov, in Moskovskaya Pravda, 16 July, placed more emphasis on military aviation in his Aviation Day article, but disclosed no new facts on the Soviet Air Force.

In Moskovskiy Komsomolets, 16 July, Lieutenant General of Aviation P. I. Brayko briefly discussed the role of Soviet youth and of the Komsomol in the preparation of aviation personnel.

I. Gorskiy, chief, Ukrainian Administration of the Civil Air Fleet, in his article "Aviation in the Service of the Ukrainian National Economy" in Pravda Ukrainy, 16 July, claimed Soviet firsts in air transport of freight and length of internal air miles covered, and told of the role of civil aviation in agriculture and public health.

S. Mikhaylov, Stalin prize laureate, and Senior Scientist of the Institute of Oceanology, Academy of Sciences USSR, wrote of the work of civil aviation in aiding Soviet fishing fleets in Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 16 July.

Lieutenant General of Aviation F. Agal'tsov, in his newspaper article "The Stalin Air Fleet," which appeared in Krasnaya Zvezda, 16 July, told of economic crises in capitalistic countries and imperialist preparations for a new world war, before covering much the same ground as did lead editorials.

A special article, "Pride of the Soviet Peoples," written by Arkadiy Per-ventsev, whose rank or title was not given, appeared in Krasnaya Zvezda, 16 July; it told of Soviet priority in the field of aeronautics.

In Moskovskiy Komsomolets, 16 July, Lieutenant Colonel A. Verkholetov wrote of the wartime and postwar activities of Air Force pilots Babayev, Manturov, and Bayguzin who did jet acrobatics in the air parades of last year and who were to pilot three of the five jet aircraft scheduled to do acrobatics at the Aviation Day celebration at Tushino on July 16.

Major General of the Aviation-Engineering Service N. Zakharov, in his article "Aviation of a Socialist Nation" in Trud, 16 July, told of the founding of the Central Aerohydrodynamics Institute in 1918 and the Moscow Aviation Academy in 1919, the growth of the aviation industry, and the work of the Civil Air Fleet.

In Krasnaya Zvezda, 15 July, Major General M. Kaz'min told of the work of DOZAV organizations in aviation sports, of Soviet world records in piloting of airplanes, amphibious planes, and gliders, and in model airplane flights.

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